

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated June 11, 2008. Claims 66 to 70 are pending in the application, of which Claims 66, 68 and 70 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 36, 37, 44, 45, 52 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/053104 (Morisaki). Claims 60 to 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Morisaki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,944,428 (Hagiwara). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns determining whether or not a present print setting is the same as a previous print setting obtained from the printer when a current user is not the same as a previous user. A warning is issued when it is determined that the present print setting is not the same as the previous print setting. Alternatively, print data is transmitted to the printer either when it is determined that the present print setting is the same as the previous print setting or when it is determined that the present user is the same as the previous user. According to the feature, changing of a print setting without a warning is permitted only if the present user who attempts to change the setting is the same as the last user of the printer.

Turning to the claims, Claim 66 is directed to an information processing apparatus. The apparatus comprises a first determination unit, configured to determine whether or not a present user who gives a print instruction to a printer at a present time is the same as a previous user at a previous time; a second determination unit, configured to determine whether or not a present print setting set at this time is the same as a previous

print setting at the previous time obtained from the printer when it is determined by said first determination unit that the present user is not the same as the previous user; a warning unit, configured to warn when it is determined by said second determination unit that the present print setting is not the same as the previous print setting; and a transmission unit, configured to transmit print data to the printer either when it is determined by said second determination unit that the present print setting is the same as the previous print setting or when it is determined by said first determination unit that the present user is the same as the previous user.

In contrast to the present invention, Morisaki discloses a printing system including a printing device and a controlling device. The controlling device acquires a sheet type from the printing device, determines whether the sheet types of the printing device and the controlling device are identical and, if not identical, the controlling device generates an error signal. However, if the sheet types are identical, the controlling device generates print data for the printing device. However, Morisaki fails to disclose or suggest determining whether or not a present user who gives a print instruction to a printer at the present time is the same as a previous user at a previous time and determining whether or not a present print setting set at the present time is the same as a previous print setting at the previous time obtained from the printer when it is determined that the present user is not the same as the previous user, as featured in Claim 66.

Furthermore, Hagiwara discloses an image information input/output device and a control system that stores structural data in which functions which are frequently used by a user are registered. The structural data may then be used at a later time to customize a control panel for use by the user. While Hagiwara may disclose storing customized

settings and comparing the settings to determine which settings are frequently used, Hagiwara fails to disclose or suggest determining whether or not a present user who gives a print instruction to a printer at the present time is the same as a previous user at a previous time and determining whether or not a present print setting set at the present time is the same as a previous print setting at the previous time obtained from the printer when it is determined that the present user is not the same as the previous user, as featured in Claim 66.

In light of the deficiencies of Morisaki and Hagiwara as discussed above, Applicants submit that independent Claim 66 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Independent Claims 68 and 70 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 66. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 68 and 70 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due. However, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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